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SUBJECT: H1N1 Update: Infection Rate Peaked in November

REF A: Berlin 1518 and previous

1. (U) SUMMARY: From November 28-December 4, the number of confirmed H1N1 infections in Germany rose by 11,582 to a total of 192,348 cases. The number of H1N1 deaths in Germany increased to ninety-four. Germany is considering selling its surplus H1N1 vaccine. Our analysis of infection rates suggest that Germany has passed the crest of the current wave of new infections. END SUMMARY

Current wave peaked in mid-late November  
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2. (U) The Influenza Working Group of the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) reported on December 10 a total of 11,582 new laboratory H1N1 cases in Germany from November 28 to December 4, increasing the total number of H1N1 cases to 192,348. According to our analysis of RKI data, the rates of both new infections and deaths appear to have peaked in mid-late Nov. According to RKI historical data, a seasonal flu wave may come in mid-January 2010. Bavaria remains the German state with the highest number of confirmed H1N1 cases, with a total of 39,628 - accounting for 21 percent of all virus infections in Germany - followed by Nord Rhine-Westphalia (NRW--36,263) and Baden-Wuerttemberg (27,972).

3. (U) As of December 10, RKI has confirmed the deaths of ninety-four patients due to H1N1. In 85 percent of the deaths, patients were younger than 60 years of age. In the majority of cases, the patients had underlying health conditions and were considered to be "risk patients."

Germany may sell surplus H1N1 vaccine  
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4. (SBU) Germany reportedly may sell 2.2 million doses of its H1N1 vaccine supply to other countries after only 5-6 percent of the German population has elected to be vaccinated. The governments of the federal states will decide whether or not to sell or donate the vaccine because they - not the federal government, purchased the supply. It is not yet clear when the final decision will be made. According to contacts at the

Ministry of Health, the federal government will function as an agent for the states, offering the surplus vaccine to other countries via their foreign missions in Germany. Germany received 9.6 million H1N1 vaccine doses in November. A total of 20 million doses are expected to arrive by the end of December, with 30 million further doses by the end of March. The German population remains reluctant to be vaccinated; however, Health Minister Phillip Roesler (FDP) continues to caution that the virus has not become less dangerous. He has emphasized that there could be a second wave of infections in 2010 and has recommended that everyone in Germany get an H1N1 vaccination.

MURPHY